



www.lwvjvl.org

January 2021



Dear Friends in League,  
I hope you have been enjoying the holiday season and I wish you and your families a Happy and Healthy New Year!

The election is behind us, but the League will have a lot of work to do in the coming year. Following upon the election we are likely to need to continue our efforts to expand voter access, develop an non-partisan legislative redistricting process, and to fight voter suppression.

While voting rights and voter education and registration are core issues for the League of Women Voters, those of you who are relatively new to League may not be familiar with the range of national, state, and local positions that the League has developed over the past 100 years that can guide our efforts in additional areas of social policy and natural resource policy. New and long-time members of League may be interested in exploring the scope of these policies:

LWVUS positions can be found in Impact on Issues: A Guide to Public Policy Positions <https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/LWV-impact-2020.pdf>

LWVWI positions:

<https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/positions>

LWVJVL positions:

<https://www.lwvjvl.org/local-lwv-jvl-positions>

The League's positions on social policy and



natural resources provide the basis for the efforts Leagues will be taking in developing an infrastructure plan in partnership with the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). This plan can have a positive impact on Wisconsin's economy and jobs, and on the environment. The LWV-Milwaukee County is taking the lead on this project, and I will be able to share more information as the project develops.

### **LWV Annual Event (nee SBA Birthday)**

The theme of this year's Annual Event of the LWVs of Beloit and Janesville is "Restoring Trust in Voting." The event will be held virtually on Saturday, February 13, from 10:00-11:30 am. Our main speaker will be Professor David Canon, of the UW-Madison Department of Political Science, who will discuss the challenge of restoring trust in our election process. We are not able to host a luncheon event this year, but please consider making a donation to support the League's vital work. Net proceeds will be shared equally between the Beloit and Janesville LWVs. You can make a reservation (RSVP) for the event on our website:

<https://www.lwvjvl.org/upcoming-events>

### **Membership Renewal and Directory Update**

Our printed Membership Directory for 2020-21 (blue cover) is the best information we had for members at the time of printing in September. If you want to update your information for our League and for the national database, please send the information to our Treasurer Laura Peterson, email:

[laura.boettcher9@gmail.com](mailto:laura.boettcher9@gmail.com), who maintains the national database. The deadline for updating the database is January 31.

Our records show that approximately 10 of our members have not yet renewed their League membership for 2020-21. League membership is renewable in JUNE of each year, and that is why we encourage members to make a practice of renewing each year at the time of our Annual Meeting. If you have not sent the League a check since our Annual

# \* President's Letter

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Meeting in 2020, your renewal is probably overdue. LWVJVL President will contact members who have not yet renewed their membership. We don't want to lose you, and those who have not renewed by January 31 will no longer be included in the national database

(nor in our next membership directory).

We have a variety of membership levels. You can join the LWV or renew your membership by sending your check to the LWV-Janesville, PO Box 8064, Janesville, WI 53547-8064. You can also join/renew online at <https://www.lwvjvl.org/join-the-league>

## LWVWI Demographic Survey

The LWVWI Community Alliances Committee recently developed a Demographic Survey as a tool that local Leagues are encouraged to use to measure the diversity of their membership across several variables including ethnicity, age, gender, income, education, and ability status, to name a few. The purpose of the survey is to



create a baseline population profile of our local Leagues, present areas where they can direct diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) actions and improve outreach services in their communities. It is our hope that annual use of this survey will not only track the composition and growth of local League membership over time but also measure the impact of our local League's DEI work on membership diversity and expansion. Thank you for your support of this project! Your participation will help us understand who we are and how we can better serve our Leagues and our communities.

The link to the LWV Janesville Demographic Survey 2020 is <https://forms.gle/RJpZSsGTuFCx1bjA9>

Please complete the survey by January 31, 2021.

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy

*Each month we will be placing our position on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Voter, as a service to our members.*

LWV is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, workstyle, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as

recognizing or illustrating diversity.

The Janesville LWV commits to the diversity of Janesville and fully endorses the LWV's DEI policy.



# CALENDAR

## Upcoming Activities 2020-21\*

\*Additional events may be planned. Check website: [lwvjvl.org/upcoming-events](http://lwvjvl.org/upcoming-events)

### January 2021

January 9 6:30-8:30 p.m. Diversity Action Team  
Event via Zoom  
January 12 Voter Service via Zoom  
January 18 DEI via Zoom  
January 25 Courageous Conversations 5:30-8:30  
p.m. via Zoom

### February 2021

February 22 Courageous Conversations 5:30-8:30  
p.m. Via Zoom

### March 2021

March 21 Courageous Conversations 5:30-8:30  
p.m. Via Zoom



2020 was not without its challenges. With the pandemic, a continued and heightened racial justice movement, and other hurdles that came our way, it was not an easy year for those intent on defending democracy.

However, in the face of such adversity and uncertainty, we have much to be proud of as Wisconsinites. We held three elections and a special Congressional election, including a historic presidential election, and while the April presidential primary election stressed our election framework and exacerbated the disparities with regard to who has access to the ballot, we learned, pivoted and advocated for relief and accessibility for voters in the subsequent elections.

With deliberate attempts to disenfranchise voters, particularly voters with disabilities and voters from communities of color, Wisconsinites showed up and decided who our next leaders would be.

A record number of voters voted in the November 3 presidential election, many of which voted for the first time, or voted by mail. We recruited thousands of poll workers and, with our partners in Election Protection and the Wisconsin Voting Rights Coalition,

observers representing more than 200 municipalities in Wisconsin. Additionally, hundreds of voters shared their voting experience through the League's online Voter Experience Survey. Wisconsin held one of the most secure and safe elections in history.

In 2020, we lost lifelong advocates for equal rights and equal justice with the passing of Senator John Lewis and Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Shirley Abrahamson, a long standing member of LWWVI. We also, for the first time in our history, elected the first woman vice president - a Black, Asian American born of immigrant parents.

Going into 2021, it is important to remember that we decided what our future will look like, and that the work for pandemic relief, economic well being, racial justice and a sustainable climate begins now. Remember to vote in your local elections this Spring. You can get ahead by requesting your absentee ballots for all of the year's elections beginning on January 1 at [www.myvote.wi.gov](http://www.myvote.wi.gov).

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin hopes everyone has a safe holiday season. We are ready to move forward together in 2021, and we hope you will join us.

**Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.**

**Contribute now to ensure the League is a strong force in Wisconsin.**

**Are you reading this newsletter as a 'guest'?**  
Joining the League of Women Voters is easy simply fill in this form and mail.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

- |                          |  |         |                          |           |          |
|--------------------------|--|---------|--------------------------|-----------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Individual   | \$65.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Household | \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Supporting   | \$75.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Student   | \$10.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | & _____ Open Door Membership   |         |                          |           |          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | I am unable to join the League at this time but enclosed is a contribution of \$_____. |         |                          |           |          |

Please make your check payable to: League of Women Voters -  
Janesville, P.O. Box 8064, Janesville, WI 53547-8064

- I request consideration for a LWV scholarship.

## **Web addresses of National, State and Local Leagues:**

To check out the action go to: **LWV-US**

*<www.lwv.org>*

**LWV-WI** *<www.lwvwi.org>*

**JANESVILLE LEAGUE**

*<www.lwvjvl.org>*